

RADIO STAMPS

by

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Hello again, and welcome to the April edition of **Radio Stamps**. This is program 22, and the subject today is ham stamps, or amateur radio on stamps.

Many shortwave DXers tune to the amateur radio bands to log new countries around the world. Many shortwave listeners are also amateur radio operators, or hams. I like to tune to the amateur bands on Sunday mornings. I tune in at 10 in the morning, eastern time, on a frequency of 7240 kHz, lower side band, to hear the ANARC SWL ham net. This is the amateur radio net of the Association of North American Radio Clubs for the latest in shortwave listening information, DX tips and up-to-the-minute hobby news.

I also like to collect amateur radio on stamps. On today's program I have collecting tips on 4 ham stamps. There's a great variety of attractive stamps to collect on this subject from around the world. Some, for example, honour amateur radio clubs, like the American Radio Relay League. Others commemorate radio conferences, like the Warsaw meeting of the International Amateur Radio Union. You can collect ham stamps that depict amateur radio stations in operation, and ham expeditions to remote lands.

There are many published references too about collecting ham stamps. They're all listed in my 1992 **Radio Stamps** bibliography. My bibliography is updated each year in January, and its available free, around the world, for return postage. Please write to me if you'd like a copy. If you live in North America, please send me a business-size, self-addressed envelope with 1 postmarked international reply coupon. If you live outside North America, please send me a business-size, self-addressed envelope with 2 postmarked international reply coupons. I'll give you my mailing address at the end of this feature.

My collecting tips today for ham stamps are from the Dominican Republic - 2 stamps for the Dominican Radio Club, and 2 stamps for actual ham expeditions. The Dominican Radio Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1976. 2 commemorative postage stamps, with denominations of 6 and 10 centavos, were issued on October 8, 1976, for this notable anniversary. The design of both stamps features symbols for radio waves, radio towers and atoms. They

also include the logo of the radio club. The 6 centavos issue is bright red, and the 10 centavos denomination, for airmail, is bright blue. The Scott catalogue numbers for these issues are 773 and C246.

The next two stamps really caught my eye. The first was issued on January 25, 1979 to commemorate the 1st expedition of radio amateurs to Beata Island. That's spelled B-e-a-t-a. You'll have fun looking up the location of the island in your atlas. The design of this attractive airmail stamp, with a denomination of 10 centavos, features the outline of the island with multicolour images inside of an amateur radio transceiver beneath palm trees, an iguana perched on a rock, and a lovely sand beach. Off the coast is illustrated a pleasure yacht. Sounds like a great place for DXing doesn't it. The Scott catalogue number is C286.

The second stamp was issued on October 3, 1980, for a DXpedition to Catalina Island in the Dominican Republic. The design for this 7 centavos issue is a simple map of the island and the logo of the Dominican Radio Club. If you look closely, you'll also notice the lines of longitude and latitude on the stamp for this DX location. The Scott catalogue for this unique stamp from the Dominican Republic is C320. Its nearly -20 degrees celcius here in Canada as I record this program. I purposely selected some stamps today from a tropical county to warm up the atmosphere of the all radio rooms in the northern part of the globe. I especially like those stamps of ham expeditions under palm trees on a sand beach. I hope you'll have fun collecting them.

The **Radio Stamps** program is sponsored this year by the North American Shortwave Association. The club is underwriting the production and mailing costs of this volunteer program on HCJB. The North American Shortwave Association has membership across Canada and the United States, and around the world. The club produces the monthly Journal, and a sample copy is available for only \$2. If you'd like to write to the club, here's the address: North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, spelled L-e-v-i-t-t-o-w-n, in Pennsylvania, or PA for short. The zip code in the United States is 19507. The address again is the North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, PA, 19507, U.S.A.

That's all for today. As promised, here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is KOA 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, KOA 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.